UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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MILLER THOMPSON, LLP
Scotia Plaza
40 King Street West, Suite 5800
TORONTO, ON M5H 3S1
CANADA

EXAMINER
WU, RUTAO

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3639	

DATE MAILED: 04/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/904,605	QURESHI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Rutao Wu	3639	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _26 January 2006_.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-20_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-20_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

    1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

    2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

    3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1.   In response filed on January 26, 2006 the applicant amended claims 1, 3, 8, 10,

11 and 16, 18-20. No claims were cancelled, no new claims were introduced.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2.   The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 8 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply

with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which

was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one

skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had

possession of the claimed invention. No support for the said electronic workflow

corresponding to the electronic business cycle of each of said plurality of users was

given in the specifications.

The examiner read page 11 in the third paragraph of the description as led by the

applicant. However, no description of what a workflow is found within the application.

The examiner respectfully requests to be shown the location in the specification or the

definition of "workflow".

3.   The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly
> claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4.   Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite

for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant

regards as the invention.

5.   Claim 8 recites the limitation "said electronic workflow" in line 3. There is

insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Response to Arguments

6.   Applicant's arguments filed January 26, 2006 have been fully considered but they

are not persuasive.

7.   The applicant amended independent claims 1, 10, 18-20 to include the new

limitation of supply chain data exchange means. The applicant argues that Church et al

does not disclose supply chain data exchange means. The examiner respectfully

disagrees. Supply chain is well known in the arts as defined as a network or a

coordinated system of entities, companies, activities etc. Therefore, a supply chain data

exchange means is a means of exchange data between a network or a coordinated

system of entities or companies. Church et al disclose a network or a group of trading

partners with which the system disclosed in the invention exchanges information, or

more specific trading and accounting information. Therefore, Church et al does disclose

a supply chain data exchange means.

The applicant amended the claims to include the limitation of providing the "business rules" of the clients to the supply chain data change means to implement accordingly, the applicant argue that Church et al does not teach such feature. "Business Rules" as understood by the examples given in the applicant's application is the rules or guidelines a business follow to conduct business. Church et al disclose that the network server includes a transaction approval database, which lists the appropriate approval requirements for each particular trading partner. When a transaction is received, the transaction approval database checks if the correct approvals have been obtained, and then continue the transaction according to the approval result. (col 13: lines 21-25) It is inherent from the disclosure that the appropriate approval requirements are provided by each particular trading partner, and the approval requirements is a business rule for a particular trading partner because it follows the requirements to conduct transactions, also the network server implements the business rule when exchanging transaction data.

Church et al also teaches mapping data transactions. Church et al disclose that the network server receives transaction files and then sends out then transmission files to an appropriate client computer or a banking client computer. (col 13: lines 34-40) Without means for mapping data transactions the network server would not know which incoming transaction file came from which originating client, and which transaction file to process into outgoing transmission file to an appropriate client computer. Without means of mapping data transactions, files from an originating client would not be able to be sent to an appropriate receiving client.

In light of the response above, independent claims 1, 10, 18-20 stand rejected.

Accordingly claims 4 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2.   Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated

by Church et al, hereafter referred to as Church.

Church shows a method of data exchange that meets all the limitations. See the

respective portions of the specification.

Referring to claim 1:

a) a server computer connected to said interconnected network of computers,

said server computer comprising a supply chain data exchange means, wherein said

data exchange means provides:

i) a means for receiving and processing instructions corresponding to

business rules corresponding to each of said plurality of users, said business

rules defining at least business rules for implementing a supply chain for each of

the plurality of users; (col 7: lines 5-8, 41-43, 52-56; col 8: 14-15; col 12: 1-3; col

13: lines 21-25)

ii) a means for mapping data transactions; (col 4: 3-17; col 7: 13-17, 31-33; col 8: 9-13; col 11: 26-28; col 13: lines 34-40)

iii) a means for translating data transactions from and to a plurality of electronic formats; (col 2: 41-45; col 3: 65-col 4: 2; col 5: 13-15; col 7: 18-19; col 8: 11-13; col 11: 29-33)

iv) a data transaction repository for receiving and processing instructions for deployment of data transactions; and (col 4: 34-36, 50-52; col 11: 40)

v) an electronic commerce means for processing data transactions, said electronic commerce means being responsive to said data transaction repository and the business rules so as to process data transactions in accordance with said business rules, including the business rules for implementing the supply chain for each of the plurality of users. (col 3: 38-45; col 4: 20-23; col 5: 1-5; col 11: 47-48; col 13: lines 21-25)

Referring to claim 2:

Said system further comprising a database for storing data generated by said data exchange means. (col 2: 32-45; col 3: 57-60; col 4: 3-5, 18-20, 33-35, 50-53; col 5: 32-36, 63-67; col 6: 1-3)

Referring to claim 3:

wherein said data exchange means comprises an application repository of integrated utilities said integrated utilities providing a means for receiving and processing instructions corresponding to business rules corresponding to each of said

plurality of users; (col 7: lines 5-8, 41-43, 52-56; col 8: 14-15; col 12: 1-3) a means for

mapping data transactions; (col 4: 3-17; col 7: 13-17, 31-33; col 8: 9-13; col 11: 26-28)

a means for translating data transactions from and to a plurality of electronic formats;

(col 2: 41-45; col 3: 65-col 4: 2; col 5: 13-15; col 7: 18-19; col 8: 11-13; col 11: 29-33) a

data transaction repository for receiving and processing instructions for deployment of

data transactions; (col 4: 34-36, 50-52; col 11: 40) and an electronic commerce means

for processing data transactions, said electronic commerce means being integrated with

said data transaction repository and being responsive to the business rules so as to

process data transactions in accordance with said business rules. (col 3: 38-45; col 4:

20-23; col 5: 1-5; col 11: 47-48; col 13: lines 21-25; Fig 1)

Referring to claim 5:

Wherein said server computer is responsive to data received from said plurality

of computers regardless of the electronic format of such data; and wherein said server

computer sends data to said plurality of computers in an electronic format understood

by each of said plurality of computers. (col 2: 46-50; col 4: 33-38; col 5: 6-9; col 11: 13-

21; col 12: 30-36)

Referring to claim 6:

Wherein said server computer further comprises a display means for displaying

data generated by said data exchange means to each of said plurality of users in

accordance with the business rules corresponding to each of said plurality of users. (col

4: 52-56; col 11: 43-45; col 12: 43-46, 65-66)

Referring to claim 7:

Wherein said display means permits each of said plurality of users to access and

process data generated by said data exchange means in accordance with the business

rules corresponding to each of said plurality of users. (col 4: 21-25, 52-56; col 11: 47-48;

col 12: 43-46)

Referring to claim 8:

Wherein said data exchange means further comprises a means for receiving and

processing instructions defining an workflow in said data exchange means, said

electronic workflow corresponding to the electronic business cycle of each of said

plurality of users. (col 11: 49-63; col 12: 7-10)

Referring to claim 9:

a) a security means for providing data security; (col 1: 65-67; col 2: 24-27;

col 7: 29-31; col 4: 25-45)

b) a data exchange administration means for automated administration of

security, user profiles and preferences; (col 2: 24-27; col 7: 29-31)

c) an extraction means for extracting data generated by said data

exchange means from said database; (col 4: 3-10; col 4: 56-60; col 6: 25-28)

d) a reporting means for providing said plurality of users with reports

based on said data generated by said data exchange means; and (col 4: 43-45;

col 9: 60-63; col 13: 1-2; col 13: 28-31)

e) a data archive means for extracting archive data from said database

related to data transactions processed by said data exchange means. (col 6: 25-

28; col 4: 56-60)

Referring to claim 10:

a) a server computer product adapted to facilitate communication between said server computer and an interconnected network of computers, said server computer product comprising a supply chain data exchange means, wherein said data exchange means cooperates with a database to provide: (col 3: 25-37)

i) a means for receiving and processing instructions corresponding to business rules corresponding to each of said plurality of users, said business rules defining at least business rules for implementing a supply chain for each of the plurality of users; (col 7: lines 5-8, 41-43, 52-56; col 8: 14-15; col 12: 1-3; col 13: lines 21-25)

ii) a means for mapping data transactions; (col 4: 3-17; col 7: 13-17, 31-33; col 8: 9-13; col 11: 26-28; col 13: lines 34-40)

iii) a means for translating data transactions from and to a plurality of electronic formats; (col 2: 41-45; col 3: 65-col 4: 2; col 5: 13-15; col 7: 18-19; col 8: 11-13; col 11: 29-33)

iv) a data transaction repository for receiving and processing instructions for deployment of data transactions; and (col 4: 34-36, 50-52; col 11: 40)

v) an electronic commerce means for processing data transactions, said electronic commerce means being responsive to said data transaction repository and the business rules so as to process data transactions in accordance with said business rules, including the business rules for implementing the supply

chain for each of the plurality of users; and (col 3: 38-45; col 4: 20-23; col 5: 1-5;

col 11: 47-48; col 13: lines 21-25)

b) a facility for storing data generated by said data exchange means to said

database. (col 2: 32-45; col 3: 57-60; col 4: 3-5, 18-20, 33-35, 50-53; col 5: 32-36, 63-

67; col 6: 1-3, 63-64)

Referring to claim 11:

wherein said data exchange means comprises an application repository of integrated

utilities said integrated utilities providing a means for receiving and processing

instructions corresponding to business rules corresponding to each of said plurality of

users; (col 7: lines 5-8, 41-43, 52-56; col 8: 14-15; col 12: 1-3) a means for mapping

data transactions; (col 4: 3-17; col 7: 13-17, 31-33; col 8: 9-13; col 11: 26-28) a means

for translating data transactions from and to a plurality of electronic formats; (col 2: 41-

45; col 3: 65-col 4: 2; col 5: 13-15; col 7: 18-19; col 8: 11-13; col 11: 29-33) a data

transaction repository for receiving and processing instructions for deployment of data

transactions; (col 4: 34-36, 50-52; col 11: 40) and an electronic commerce means for

processing data transactions, said electronic commerce means being integrated with

said data transaction repository and being responsive the business rules so as to

process data transactions in accordance with said business rules. (col 3: 38-45; col 4:

20-23; col 5: 1-5; col 11: 47-48; col 13: lines 21-25; Fig 1)

Referring to claim 13:

Wherein said computer product is responsive to data received from said plurality of users regardless of the electronic format of such data. (col 2: 46-50; col 4: 33-38; col 5: 6-9; col 11: 13-21; col 12: 30-36)

Referring to claim 14:

Wherein said computer product further comprises a display means for displaying data generated by said data exchange means to each of said plurality of users in accordance with the business rules corresponding to each of said plurality of users. (col 4: 52-56; col 11: 43-45; col 12: 43-46, 65-66)

Referring to claim 15:

Wherein said display means permits each of said plurality of users to access and process data generated by said data exchange means in accordance with the business rules corresponding to each of said plurality of users. (col 4: 21-25, 52-56; col 11: 47-48; col 12: 43-46)

Referring to claim 16:

Wherein said data exchange means further comprises a means for receiving and processing instructions corresponding to a workflow implemented in said data exchange means, said workflow corresponding to the electronic business cycle based on the supply chain of each of said plurality of users. (col 11: 49-63; col 12: 7-10)

Referring to claim 17:

a) a security means for providing data security; (col 1: 65-67; col 2: 24-27; col 7: 29-31; col 4: 25-45)

b) a data exchange administration means for automated administration of security, user profiles and preferences; (col 2: 24-27; col 7: 29-31)

c) an extraction means for extracting data generated by said data exchange means from said database; (col 4: 3-10; col 4: 56-60; col 6: 25-28)

d) a reporting means for providing said plurality of users with reports based on said data generated by said data exchange means; and (col 4: 43-45; col 9: 60-63; col 13: 1-2; col 13: 28-31)

e) a data archive means for extracting archive data from said database related to data transactions processed by said data exchange means. (col 6: 25-28; col 4: 56-60)

Referring to claim 18:

a) a server computer connected to said interconnected network of computers, said server computer comprising a supply chain data exchange means, wherein said data exchange means provides:

i) a means for receiving and processing instructions corresponding to business rules corresponding to each of said plurality of users, said business rules defining at least business rules for implementing a supply chain for each of the plurality of users; (col 7: lines 5-8, 41-43, 52-56; col 8: 14-15; col 12: 1-3; col 13: lines 21-25)

ii) a means for mapping data transactions; (col 4: 3-17; col 7: 13-17, 31-33; col 8: 9-13; col 11: 26-28; col 13: lines 34-40)

iii) a means for translating data transactions from and to a plurality of

electronic formats; (col 2: 41-45; col 3: 65-col 4: 2; col 5: 13-15; col 7: 18-19; col

8: 11-13; col 11: 29-33)

iv) a data transaction repository for receiving and processing instructions

for deployment of data transactions; and (col 4: 34-36, 50-52; col 11: 40)

v) an electronic commerce means for processing data transactions, said

electronic commerce means being responsive to said data transaction repository

and the business rules so as to process data transactions in accordance with

said business rules (col 3: 38-45; col 4: 20-23; col 5: 1-5; col 11: 47-48)

wherein said data exchange means and database are integrated so that data

flows freely between said data exchange means and database, and wherein the

business rules include rules for implementing the supply chain for each of the plurality of

users. (col 2: 32-45; col 3: 25-37, 57-60; col 4: 3-5, 18-20, 33-35, 50-53; col 5: 32-36,

63-67; col 13: lines 21-25)

Referring to claim 19:

a) determining the business rules of said plurality of users; (col 3: 43-53)

b) customizing a supply chain data exchange means in accordance with said

business rules, said data exchange means comprising:

i) a means for receiving and processing instructions corresponding to

business rules corresponding to each of said plurality of users, said business

rules defining at least business rules for implementing a supply chain for each of

the plurality of users; (col 7: lines 5-8, 41-43, 52-56; col 8: 14-15; col 12: 1-3; col

13: lines 21-25)

ii) a means for mapping data transactions; (col 4: 3-17; col 7: 13-17, 31-

33; col 8: 9-13; col 11: 26-28; col 13: lines 34-40)

iii) a means for translating data transactions from and to a plurality of

electronic formats; (col 2: 41-45; col 3: 65-col 4: 2; col 5: 13-15; col 7: 18-19; col

8: 11-13; col 11: 29-33)

iv) a data transaction repository for receiving and processing instructions

for deployment of data transactions; and (col 4: 34-36, 50-52; col 11: 40)

v) an electronic commerce means for processing data transactions, said

electronic commerce means being responsive to said data transaction repository

and the business rules so as to process data transactions in accordance with

said business rules, including the business rules for implementing the supply

chain for each of the plurality of users. (col 3: 38-45; col 4: 20-23; col 5: 1-5; col

11: 47-48; col 13: lines 21-25)

c) providing access to the data exchange means to said plurality of users through

an interconnected network of computers. (col 3: 25-37)

Referring to claim 20:

a) determining the business rules of said plurality of users, including the business

rules fr implementing a supply chain for each of the plurality of users; (col 3: 43-53; col

13: lines 21-25)

b) customizing a supply chain data exchange means in accordance with said

business rules, said supply chain data exchange means comprising:

i) a means for receiving and processing instructions corresponding to

business rules corresponding to each of said plurality of users, said business

rules defining at least business rules for implementing a supply chain for each of

the plurality of users; (col 7: lines 5-8, 41-43, 52-56; col 8: 14-15; col 12: 1-3; col

13: liens 21-25)

ii) a means for mapping data transactions; (col 4: 3-17; col 7: 13-17, 31-

33; col 8: 9-13; col 11: 26-28; col 13: lines 34-40)

iii) a means for translating data transactions from and to a plurality of

electronic formats; ; (col 2: 41-45; col 3: 65-col 4: 2; col 5: 13-15; col 7: 18-19; col

8: 11-13; col 11: 29-33)

iv) a data transaction repository for receiving and processing instructions

for deployment of data transactions; and (col 4: 34-36, 50-52; col 11: 40)

v) an electronic commerce means for processing data transactions, said

electronic commerce means being responsive to said data transaction repository

and the business rules so as to process data transactions in accordance with

said business rules, including the business rules for implementing the supply

chain for each of the plurality of users. (col 3: 38-45; col 4: 20-23; col 5: 1-5; col

11: 47-48; col 13: lines 21-25)

c) providing access to the data exchange means to said plurality of users through

an interconnected network of computers; and (col 3: 25-37)

d) customization of the data exchange means so as to permit each of said

plurality of users to access data generated by said data exchange means in accordance

with user requirements by means of a custom interface. (col 4: 53-56; col 5: 18; col 6:

10; col 11: 43-45)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4.   Claims 4 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Church in view of U.S. Pat No. 6,591,306 to Redlich and in further view of U.S. Pub No.

2002/0162032 to Gundersen et al. Church does not explicitly state that his invention is

in accordance with open standards architecture. The examiner takes office notice that

building a data exchange system through an interconnected network of computers with

an open standards architecture is well known to individuals skilled in the art. Examples

can be found in Redlich who states that one example of a well-known computer

communications architecture is the open systems interconnection (OSI) model (column

5, lines 21-23). Also Gundersen discloses in his application known open standard

protocols such as Ethernet or TCP/IP [0044].

Conclusion

5.   **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time
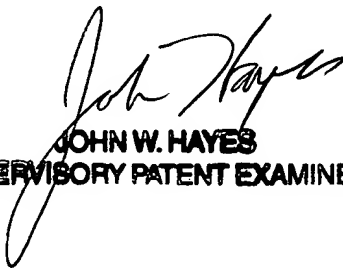
policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later

than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Rutao Wu whose telephone number is (571)272-3136.

The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on (571)272-6708. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

rw

JOHN W. HAYES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER